

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Bethesda, Maryland

OBSERVATIONS
ON
FEVERS;

WITH AN
ATTEMPT TO PROVE,

THAT THE
DANGEROUS SYMPTOMS and FATALEFFECTS,
produced by those Diseases, generally happen through
a Deficiency in the *Materia Medica*:

AND
PROPOSITIONS
FOR PREVENTING THOSE
SYMPTOMS AND EFFECTS,
By a safe, easy and immediate Cure.

By R. WHITE.

*“ Nature by Chymistry lays open the principles and
compounding Parts of the Vegetable, Animal and Mi-
neral Substances,—to preserve Health and prolong Life.”*

PITT's Description of Chymistry.

L O N D O N:

Printed for JOHN WILKIE, N^o 71, St. Paul's Church-Yard.

Price ONE SHILLING.

(111)

AR 28 Apr '52



To the Right Honorable and Honorable,
His Majesty's Military Officers.

My Lords and Honorable Gentlemen,

THOUGH the following Treatise is destitute of the Beauty and Elegance, necessary to render Writings on serious Subjects pleasing ; yet as it offers Means for the Preservation of that useful and necessary Part of his Majesty's Servants over whom you preside, I humbly hope the Importance of the Subject will secure me from incurring your Censure or Displeasure, for recommending my imperfect Labours to the Acceptance

A 2

of

52 | 269

DEDICATION.

of your honorable and respectable Body.
My only Motive for so doing, proceeded from the following Reflections:
Viz.

That it is not without great Pains, Fatigue and Trouble, to you, and Expence to the Nation, that those brave Men over whom you preside, are so far initiated in the Military Art, as to be ready to follow their honorable Commanders, to face and brave the greatest Dangers, when called forth for the Defence and Protection of the British Empire; and therefore, that it is not only a great national Loss, but also much to be regretted, that in Times of the greatest Necessity, when every Exertion of Power is needful, such great Numbers of them should be cut off by *Camp Fevers*, or thereby confined and prevented from
following

DEDICATION.

following their noble Leaders to Victory and Glory ; and, as I am certain many of those Losses and Inconveniences would be prevented, should the Means offered in the following Sheets be adopted, I *therefore* thought they could not be placed under a more secure or honorable Asylum, than your Protection.

But, My Lords and Gentlemen, as the many important Objects, which must necessarily engage your Time and Attention, may prevent your having an Opportunity of entering into a minute Examination of the several Relations of Facts, and occasional Remarks, which were requisite to be introduced in the following Sheets, for the Purpose of establishing my Propositions, I shall beg Leave to state in the most concise Manner possible, my Reasons for believing that the Means proposed would
prevent

DEDICATION.

prevent many of the Losses and Inconveniencies just mentioned; which are, that from a strict Examination and Attention to what is said by those who have written on Camp Fevers, it is plain, that their Appearances, Symptoms and Effects, are nearly the same as those which attend the various epidemic, vernal and autumnal Fevers, which too frequently make great Havock in this Nation; from which this plain and obvious Conclusion may be drawn, that, as the Camp Fevers have the same Appearance, Symptoms and Effects, as those which often happen in this Nation, the Means which prevent and remove the bad Effects of the one, would do the same in the other: and therefore, if the strongest Testimonies the human Mind is capable of receiving, are to be depended upon; *viz.* a great Variety of Proofs, obtained from a careful Examination of

Facts

DEDICATION.

Facts, and diligent Enquiries into the promiscuous Cure of Fevers, for a Series of near Twenty Years; I humbly presume, I may, without Fear of deviating from strict and solemn Truth, aver, that had those Means, which are treated of in the following Sheets, been known and made use of in those Camp Fevers, which are said to have carried off a great Number of those who were seized, a much greater Proportion would have been preserved; and many of those who were rendered useless for several Weeks, would have been enabled to do their Duty in the same Number of Days: and that, should those Means be adopted and made use of for the Future, great Numbers of his Majesty's brave veteran Soldiers would be annually preserved.

As the Subject is of great Consequence and Importance, I hope I shall be excused,

DEDICATION.

cused, if, before I conclude, I mention one or two more Advantages, which would accrue from those Methods being pursued; which are, that when Men are seized by Fevers while on their March, by these Means they would often be enabled to pursue it, when, otherwise, they must be left behind; and again, when they have the Misfortune to be wounded, and might recover, if not carried off by Fevers; they would find, that, by the Means proposed, those Fevers would often be so mitigated and kept under, as to preserve many Lives, and often prevent much Fatigue and Trouble to the Surgeons of the Armies, by accelerating the Cure.

Having thus, in the plainest and most concise Manner in my Power, pointed out some of the Advantages which would accrue from the Means proposed in the following

DEDICATION.

Following Pages being applied ; submitting to the judicious Consideration of the different Members of your honorable and respectable Body, what are the natural and most useful Conclusions deducible from the Premisses.

I am, with the highest Respect,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

New Bond - Street, }
January, 1777. }

R. White.



INTRODUCTION.

AS the following Sheets contain Propositions contrary to established Customs and commonly-received Opinions, which are well known to impress the Mind with a Dis-belief of whatever is contrary to such Customs and Opinions; as well as forcibly militate against the Introduction of new Discoveries and useful Inventions; I therefore hope to be excused, if I intreat the Reader not to form his Conclusions respecting the said Propositions, before he hath seriously weighed their great Importance, and attentively investigated the Subject to which they relate. I likewise hope I may be permitted to form this Introduction on the same Plan with that of the Treatise, to which it is prefixed; and, instead of pointing out the Excellences of the Performance, assure my Readers, that it contains neither Purity of Diction, Elegance of Sentiment, nor strict Adherence to Grammar; that it is void of all the Beauties and Graces which render the Works of learned and elegant Writers pleasing and agreeable; and that the only Hope I entertain of its being acceptable to the Public, is, that it hath Truth for Foundation, important Propositions for its Subject, and the Preservation of Man for its End.

INTRODUCTION.

Therefore, though neither the Subject nor the Style may be so pleasing and agreeable as those which are to be found in many other Writings, it is not less worthy of the Reader's unbiassed Attention; as he may thereby be conducted to the Knowledge of the most safe, certain and effectual Means, whereby he may best preserve himself, his Family and Friends, from those long and tedious Confinements, Torments and premature Deaths, which are frequently brought on by Fevers, those continual Scourges of Mankind.

But, lest by such a Proposition the Reader should be led to draw wrong Conclusions, and suppose he is going to be persuaded to lay out his Money in the Purchase of some empirical Medicine, I must take the Liberty to inform him, I am not, either directly or remotely, concerned in the Sale of any Medicine whatever.

And, as the first Proposition which comes under Consideration in the following Work, is, that there are no Means or Remedies publicly known, which can, with any reasonable Degree of Certainty, be relied upon for the Cure of Fevers (lest by such a Proposition I should be understood to cast a Reflection, either on the Practice of Physic, or the Practitioners thereof;)

INTRODUCTION.

I must beg Leave to anticipate the Reader's Conclusion on that Head, by declaring, that nothing is farther from my Intentions: and, I flatter myself, every candid and unbiaſſed Reader will perceive, that the whole Bent of what is mentioned on that Head, is only meant to prove, that the MATERIA MEDICA is very barren and deficient of Medicines, ſo far as reſpects the Cure of Fevers; and that it is therefore very requiſite to enquire for thoſe which are more *ſafe, certain and effectual* for that Purpoſe.

And if, in the Diſcuſſion of a Subject, on which many thouſand Lives depend, I have, either accidentally or through Neceſſity, in Order more fully to illuſtrate the Subject, been led to mention ſome Things I would gladly have left unnoticed, I hope no Phyſician will be offended, or take it amiſs; at leaſt, I am ſure no good and humane Phyſician will be diſpleaſed: for, as thoſe are Guardians of Life and Health, and have their Minds impreſſed with Sentiments of univerſal Benevolence and a ſincere Deſire to do all Things in their Power, which tend to improve and advance the Healing Art to a nearer Degree of Perfection, I will not entertain the leaſt Apprehenſion; but ſhall be ſecure from
their

INTRODUCTION.

their Displeasure for any Thing I have asserted in the Prosecution of so useful and laudable a Design: but, on the Contrary, hope to be favoured with their Countenance and Support; flattering myself, that they will assist my honest and well-meant Endeavours to make such an Addition to the divine Science of Healing, as to prevent *Fevers* being any longer the Reproach of Medicine.

With the strictest Integrity I can declare, that this has been the great Object of my Wishes for near twenty Years; being fully perswaded, that had my first Efforts * for that Purpose been crowned with Success, many distressing Scenes of Sorrow and Affliction would have been annually prevented, as well as useful Members of the Community preserved.

No other Consideration than my Certainty of these important Truths, hath induced me to an Attempt of engaging the Attention of the Public to so imperfect a Work, which I begun and finished with a Consciousness of being greatly unequal to the Conduct of so interesting a Business;

* In the Year 1760, &c. See the following Treatise.

INTRODUCTION.

ness; and sincerely wish it had been undertaken by those whose Power and Abilities were more adequate to its great Importance. But, since it hath happened that a Cause of so great Consequence to the Public, as well as Individuals, hath been intrusted to the Management of an Advocate, so weak and unexperienced, I will support it to the utmost of my Abilities, and use my best Endeavours, by the Aid of Truth, to bring it to a happy Issue; and thereby prevent a Discovery, which hath for many Ages been sought after with great Earnestness and anxious Solitude, remaining any longer useless to Society.

But, should this my last Effort to make this valuable Deposit, committed to my Care, subservient to the Purposes for which it was intended by the all-wise Donor, fail of Success, I shall return to that quiet Situation, from whence I was drawn by the above-mentioned Consideration, and Solicitations of those who have long been intimately acquainted how greatly the Public are interested therein: conscious of having spared neither Time, Trouble nor Expence, in the Pursuits of Discoveries, from whence very singular Benefits may be derived to my Native Country.



O B S E R V A T I O N S

O N

F E V E R S, &c.



S the Incident, which first induced me to enter into an Enquiry concerning the Insufficiency of the *Materia Medica*, so far as respects the Cure of *Fevers*, is taken Notice of in another Part of this Treatise, I shall not mention it here; but only observe, that the longer and more minutely I scrutinized that important Subject, the more Reason I had to be convinced, that the first Proposition to be examined in the following Treatise, is true; *viz.* That there are no Means or Medicines publickly known, or in common Practice, which can, with any reasonable Degree of Certainty, be depended upon for the Cure of those fatal Diseases.

Before I proceed to the Discussion of this interesting Subject, I shall point out some, among the many, Miseries and Afflictions, which Persons of all Denominations are liable to suffer, by the malignant Effects of those continual Scourges of the human Race, which, according to the Computation of several ingenious Writers, destroy a third Part of Mankind; and sometimes rage with such Violence in different Parts of this Nation, as to spare neither Age, Sex, nor Condition; but cause a common Devastation of almost whole Parishes.

Some of the Symptoms attending the first Stage of a Fever, are described to be Languor, Weariness, Weakness, Insensibility, the Extremities Cold and Trembling, Pains in the Back, Anxiety, Oppression and Swelling about the Præcordia, with Rigors and Horrors, Flatulency, Loss of Appetite, Nausea and Vomitings. And, except the Symptoms of the first Stage destroy the Patient, they are followed by the second.

But I should think myself wanting in Duty to the Cause I have undertaken, should I pass over this important Part without making some Observations upon it, and endeavour to confine the Reader's Attention to what so nearly concerns himself, his Family and his social Connections; I would therefore particularly recommend to his Consideration, how great must be the Sufferings of such Persons who are conducted
through

through all the Symptoms of the first Stage, and when they survive those, are exposed to the Torments attending the second; which are described to be Rigors and Horrors, Heat arising from the Præcordia, and diffused from thence over the whole Body, irregular Flushings, a strong, full obstructed Pulse, or a very quick small one, great Pains in the Head and Joints, Stupor, Delirium, universal Soreness, Redness, arising in different Parts irregularly, Sweating in the Head and Breast, or over the whole Body, partial Secretions, Petechiæ, Death; and to this affecting Catalogue may be added, that of destroying the most exalted Enjoyments of human Felicity, by the untimely Separation of the best and dearest Friends.

Since such is the unhappy Situation to which Persons of every Age, Sex and Condition, are liable to be reduced by Fevers, and it is quite uncertain how soon those who are well to Day, may be brought to the most wretched Situation thereby; though the Investigation of the Subject may not be so amusing and agreeable as many others, yet there can be none that is more important, or has a greater Claim to the Attention of all Persons, as it is intended to communicate the most safe, certain and effectual Means for their Relief and Preservation.

But, it may perhaps be said, how, or by what Means, is such Information to be obtained? The

Answer is obvious: By following the Dictates of Reason, and abiding by plain Demonstrations and Matters of Fact; for from thence alone can any certain and satisfactory Knowledge be obtained for that Purpose. If it were possible to examine the many Thousand Volumes which have been written by ancient and modern Authors, respecting the Cure of Fevers, all the Information which could be obtained for the Time and Trouble, would be, that ‘ after
 ‘ a Contest has been carried on by the most eminent
 ‘ Physical Writers and Practitioners for many Centuries, concerning the good Effects of Bleeding,
 ‘ Blistering, Purging, &c. the Question still remains
 ‘ as uncertain and undetermined as ever; one Party
 ‘ declaring them to be useful, safe and necessary;
 ‘ while the other as positively assert them to be
 ‘ hazardous, mischievous and destructive.’ Nor are their Opinions more unanimous concerning Boles, testaceous Powders, Confections and other Preparations; some affirming them to be beneficial, whilst others pronounce them pernicious and deleterious.

If this then is a true and genuine State of this interesting Affair, as I believe no one will deny, it must remain with the Reader to determine, whether he will trust the Life of himself and his dearest Friends to Means and Medicines so confessedly acknowledged to be very precarious, if not hurtful; or he would rather pursue his Enquiries, in hopes of obtaining the Knowledge of those which are more safe, certain
 and

and effectual : and, should he choose the latter, I will take upon me to say, his Hopes will not be in vain.

But, as such Truths are much better demonstrated by Facts, than by a Thousand metaphysical Arguments, I shall attempt an Illustration thereof by such Incidents as often fall within the Reach of common Observation. But, before I proceed, I cannot forbear observing, that it is not without Reluctance I invite my Readers to such unpleasing Reflections; because, to those who are particularly sensible to the endearing Affections of Nature, and have had the Misfortune to experience the Truth of what will be said, it may bring back the Remembrance of former Afflictions; nevertheless, as I hope to conduct them to the knowledge of the Means to prevent the Frequency of the like Misfortunes for the Future, I flatter myself those Motives will plead my Excuse, and induce them to continue their Disquisitions in a Matter, wherein not only the Community at large, but their Posterity, are particularly concerned.

There are, I believe, very few Persons, whose Connections are so limited, but, if they take a Retrospect of what hath happened in their own Families, and those of their Relations, Friends and Acquaintance, within the Compass of a few Years; that may not remember to have known or heard of Persons being taken slightly ill of feverish Disorders, which they were told (and believed) not to portend any
Danger,

Danger, or indicate the least bad Consequences; which, nevertheless, advanced by Degrees, and, notwithstanding the joint Advice of the most skilful Physicians, with all the Means and Medicines they could procure, continued to increase; and, after having regularly proceeded from one Stage to another, terminated in Death.

But, as general Assertions ought not to be admitted before they have been demonstrated by the clearest Evidence the State of the Case will admit, and, as it may happen that some Readers may not recollect any Circumstances similar to those above-mentioned; I will, with all the Exactness in my Power, relate several, which, among many others, fell within my own Observation, in the Course of a few Years.

A Gentleman of the Army married a young Lady, with whom he lived very happily for some Years; and in that Time had several Children. It happened the Lady was taken with a feverish Complaint, which, it was said, would easily be removed; but it proved otherwise, for the Fever gradually increased; and, notwithstanding all the Assistance that could be procured, in the Space of fourteen Days, put a Period to her Life, to the great Affliction of her Husband. However, his Loss was in some Measure repaired by his eldest Daughter, who, though very young, had so great a Share of Prudence, as to be capable of taking Care of his family Affairs:

Affairs. But this Gleam of Happiness was soon interrupted; for the same inflexible Intruder, without the least Respect to the Youth, or the extraordinary Qualities of the young Person, at first slightly attacked her; and, notwithstanding all possible Assistance was employed, in about twelve or fourteen Days, put a Period to her Life; leaving an inconsolable Father to lament her untimely Fate.

But this additional Grief was not of long Duration; for the same inexorable Foe, who had so lately snatched from his Arms an affectionate Wife and a dutiful Daughter, soon afterwards attacked him; nor was all the Assistance which could be procured, sufficient to preserve him: for he was cut off in the Prime of Life, to the inexpressible Affliction of the remaining Part of his Family*.

If

* In these Instances, what is remarked in the Introduction to this Treatise, respecting the Prevalency of established Customs and commonly-received Opinions militating against the Reception of new Discoveries and useful Inventions, was particularly exemplified. For an Acquaintance of mine, who was very intimate in this afflicted Family, strongly solicited them to make Use of the *Chymical Febrifuge*; being, as she said, fully persuaded that it would save the Lady's Life. But she was answered, that "her Life was of too much Value to be trusted to such Medicines." And yet, such was the Prevalency of Custom, that, with some little Variation, the same Means and Medicines which were applied with such ill Success for the Preservation of the Mother, were

If then such accumulated Distresses are frequently produced by Fevers in their ordinary Course, what are the unhappy Situations of those who happen to be situated where Fevers rage with such Violence, as to spare neither Age, Sex nor Condition! Surely it is not less necessary and prudent to be provided with proper Antidotes against the poisonous Effects of these common Enemies of Mankind, than with Locks, Bolts and Bars, for Security against the Attacks of Murderers, Thieves and Robbers. And, if those who are of this Opinion will be pleased to pursue their Enquiries, with an Attention proportionable to the Importance of the Subject, they may be fully convinced, that it is not only possible to prepare such an Antidote; but also to prepare a sufficient Quantity to supply the British Fleets and Armies, in Time of Need †; as well as the Inhabitants of those Villages, and remote Parts of the Nation; which are sometimes

were made Use of for the Daughter, in nearly the same Circumstances; and attended with the like Consequences. Nevertheless, rather than deviate from those Rules, and take the Advice of a Friend, the Father trusted his own Life to the same Means he had so lately experienced to be ineffectual for the Recovery of his Wife and Daughter.

† Long chymical Processes, great Heat, and constant Attendance, are necessary for making the first Principal, whereby the Febrifuge is obtained: but when that is once effected, new Additions will succeed, by Projection; and a constant Supply be made, to answer the salutary Purposes above-mentioned.

times almost depopulated, for Want of being possessed of such a timely Help. But, before I proceed to discuss what relates to this last Proposition, I must return from this Digression, to where I was observing, that ‘ there are few People, if they take a cursory
 ‘ View of what has happened in their own Families,
 ‘ and those of their Relations and Friends, but would
 ‘ have Cause to remember some such Accidents and
 ‘ Misfortunes, as those I have just related.’ From which it may reasonably be inferred, that what I mentioned, respecting the *Materia Medica*, is true. For to what other Cause can it be assigned, that those Fevers, so slight in their beginning, should so often become formidable, dangerous and fatal, notwithstanding all that can be prescribed by the most able and experienced in the Medical Art?

It cannot, with any Propriety of Reason, be supposed, that those Gentlemen, who, to a long Series of Study and Application, have joined Experience and Observation, can be deficient in the Knowledge of Diseases, or unacquainted with the Virtues and Properties of all the medicinal Preparations publickly known. It must, therefore, proceed from this; that
 ‘ the *Materia Medica* is deficient in Remedies for
 ‘ the Cure of Fevers:’ of which the Reader will be more fully convinced, by an exact and careful Examination of what is left upon Record by a very learned and able Physician.

The learned Dr. *Friend* (the respectable Author alluded to) who, at the same Time that he was introducing Purging in Fevers, as a Method generally to be adopted, and as an Axiom in the Practice of Physic, in two Epistles inscribed to Dr. *Mead*, relates several Cases, in which he gives an Account of the different Methods and principal Medicines made Use of in each Case. And, as I think the first is very remarkable and interesting, I shall transcribe so much of it, as hath Respect to the important Subject I am treating of: and then attempt to make some seasonable Remarks; from which, and by a Comparison of Facts, I humbly presume, the Reader's Reflections will lead him to such Deductions and Conclusions, as will make him anxious for the Introduction of Means and Remedies, that are more easy, safe and effectual.

“ A Person of Quality (says the learned Author)
 “ in the Prime of his Age and Strength, was seized
 “ with the Small Pox, *February* 3d; which, in their
 “ Eruption, occasioned an exquisite Pain in the
 “ Back. The Physicians, who were first consulted,
 “ ordered a Vein to be opened, and a Vomit to be
 “ given. *February* 6th the whole Body, as well as
 “ the Face, was spread over with an infinite Num-
 “ ber of Pustules, small, depressed and confluent;
 “ resembling, on the Cheeks, a Sort of Pellicle;
 “ in other Parts, after the first Impulse in coming
 “ out, they rose very slowly. He used a thin and
 “ temperate

“ temperate Diet. The chief Part of his Medicine
 “ was Confect. Fracastorii, dissolved in Aq. Lactis.
 “ The Spitting proceeded pretty happily for three
 “ Days; afterwards it totally ceased: which to me
 “ foreboded very great Danger, though to others it
 “ may seem otherwise, who imagine, that the Flux
 “ of Spitting in the Small-Pox, proceeds from I do
 “ not know what Malignity of Nature. Indeed,
 “ however malignant it may be, it seems almost ne-
 “ cessary in this Distemper, when it is of the con-
 “ fluent Kind.

“ *Feb. 9,* The Pustules about the Chin were al-
 “ most black, and those which had run together up-
 “ on the Cheeks, resembled in smoothness Parch-
 “ ment or Ice. The Fauces being over-run with
 “ them were full of Pain, the Face was moderately
 “ swelled; in the Evening an Ounce of Oxymel
 “ Scilliticum was exhibited to provoke Vomiting.

“ *Feb. 10,* He fancied himself something refresh-
 “ ed, the Face was more swelled, though still more
 “ depressed than the Nature of the Disease required;
 “ the Spitting returned; but after ten Hours wholly
 “ ceased. A little before nine a Vesicatory was ap-
 “ plied to the Neck.

“ *Feb. 11,* The Hands a little swelled; but lest
 “ any Thing more dreadful should happen at this
 “ dangerous Time (for it was now the ninth Day of

“ the Disease) it was agreed to apply Blisters to the
 “ Arms in the Evening; nor indeed was it done too
 “ soon; for there began to be both a Subfultus Tendi-
 “ dinum and a Convulsion of the Lips. He was ex-
 “ tremely restless all this Night, for the Fever burnt
 “ vehemently, a Delirium ensued, with a Tremor
 “ of the whole Body.

“ Feb. 12, In the Morning he was not capable of
 “ either speaking or swallowing; therefore all Hopes
 “ of his Recovery were in a Manner lost. How-
 “ ever, a Clyster was injected, which worked very
 “ well in the Afternoon, when the Blister had hap-
 “ pily succeeded to our Wishes, he came intirely to
 “ himself.

“ Feb. 13 and 14, The Fever continued; cardiac
 “ and diaphoretic Medicines had been given with-
 “ out Success.

“ Feb. 15, Again a new violent Subfultus Tendi-
 “ num: The Delirium returned at short Intervals,
 “ for neither was the Fever quite gone off, nor had
 “ we received any Advantage from the Mode of
 “ Cure instituted.”

*[A long Dissertation respecting the Usefulness of Purg-
 ing in Fevers, is here introduced, which I shall omit as
 foreign to the present Purpose: after which it is added]*

“ They

“ They contended for cephalic Medicines, which
 “ are reckoned proper to remove a Delirium and
 “ Tremors of the Nerves: which Method of Cure,
 “ however well it might succeed, might cut off some
 “ Branches of the Disease, but could not wholly
 “ eradicate it: for however the Symptoms might be
 “ abated, the Fever which was the Cause of the Dis-
 “ ease still remained, nevertheless we prescribed
 “ Spirit. Cranii Humani & Sal. Armon. volat.

“ *Feb. 17,* In the Morning his Fever and Con-
 “ vulsions raged more violently.”

I have thus fairly transcribed, as nearly as can be gathered from the Relator's Account, all the Medicines that could be thought of by so experienced a Physician as Dr. *Friend*, in Consultation with several others, for the Relief and Preservation of a Nobleman, afflicted with a most violent Disease. As this Nobleman then was very nearly interested in the Power and Efficacy of the Medicines which the Materia Medica furnished for his Relief and Preservation, so are Persons of every Degree, who may hereafter have the Misfortune to be seized with any dangerous Fever, equally concerned (for Fevers, when not accompanied with the Small-Pox, are frequently as fatal and destructive as those that are;) it may therefore be presumed every Reader will think an exact Investigation into the Virtues and Qualities of those Medicines, on which he risks his own Life and those
 of

of his most valuable Friends, not unworthy of serious Attention.

I will therefore regularly proceed to make Remarks and draw the plainest Inferences and Conclusions, which it is in my Power to deduce, from a careful and candid Examination of what was done, in Order to remove this afflicted Nobleman's FEVER; which on the 13th Day of the Disease is acknowledged to be the Cause thereof; and shew, that whatever Effects the Medicines proposed might have in cutting off other Branches of the Disease, they could have none, in Respect of subduing the Fever.

In the first Account of *Feb. 3*, when it is said a Vein had been opened and a Vomit given, no Mention is made of any other Medicine, till the 6th; when it is observed, the chief Part of his Medicine was Confect. Fracastorii, dissolved in Aqua Lactis: from this to the 9th nothing is mentioned; wherefore it must be concluded, the same Medicines were continued till the Evening of that Day, when an Ounce of Oxymel Scilliticum was exhibited to provoke Vomiting. And, as we are now arrived at the seventh Evening since the Beginning of a very alarming Disease, though no Mention hath been made of a Fever (which is the principal Thing I am particularly to take Notice of) it may be naturally concluded, as well from the Nature of the Disease, as from what will

will very soon appear, the Fever had been violent the greatest Part, if not all the Time. For which Reason, an Enquiry into the Means and Medicines, used to regulate it and keep it in due Bounds, may not be unnecessary; more especially, as it may naturally be supposed, so eminent a Physician as Dr. *Friend* would order the very best the *Materia Medica* could supply*. Yet we do not find any Medicine had been given, which could in Reason be supposed
to

* As I humbly presume what is said in the Introduction to this Treatise, will secure me from the least Suspicion of aiming any Reflections on the present Practitioners in the Healing Art, so I flatter myself it will do the same in Respect to the Gentlemen who attended the much afflicted Nobleman, whose Case we are examining. And I must particularly observe, that I would not be understood to insinuate, that the Febrifuge (of which an historical Account is subjoined at the End of this Treatise) would have preserved his Life: as it is only known to unerring Wisdom, whether it was or was not in the Power of Medicine to do it. All I would be understood to mean, is, that the *Materia Medica* does not afford any Medicine, which, in dangerous Fevers, can be of any material Service. Nor would I be thought to represent the Chymical Febrifuge as infallible in those Diseases: but freely acknowledge, that, in the Course of twenty Years, I have known one Instance ‡ in which it failed of producing its usual Effects; of which a more ample Account will be given hereafter. But this I will venture to say, that a few Spoonfuls of it would have done more towards subduing and removing that Fever, (which is acknowledged to be the Cause of the Disease) than all the Medicines that appear to have been administered for that Purpose.

to have sufficient Power and Efficacy to mitigate and calm the exorbitant Motions of the Spirits, or prevent the noxious and deleterious Principles, generally very exuberant in malignant Diseases, from assimulating the Blood, and then attacking the Heart and all the vital Parts. This cannot be an unnecessary Inquiry in this Place; because, as I have before observed, as the Life of that afflicted Nobleman was then interested, so is that of every Person, who shall hereafter be so unhappy as to be seized by any violent Fever.

It appears, that, on or before the 3d of *Feb.* a Vein had been opened, and a Vomit given; and on the 6th, that the chief Part of his Medicine was Confect. Fracastorii dissolved in Aqua Lactis. And, as it could not be expected that this Medicine could be of any material Service, or have much Tendency towards producing any such Effects as those I have mentioned, (which in all dangerous Fevers is of the utmost Consequence :) and as nothing of that Sort has appeared from an Examination of what past during the first seven Days; I will proceed, with the utmost Care, to see if any of that Tendency is discoverable hereafter. On the 9th of *Feb.* it is said an Ounce of Oxymel Scilliticum was exhibited, to provoke Vomiting; and on the 10th a Vesicatory was applied to the Neck: but it doth not yet appear, that any generous Medicine had been thought of, which is something to be regretted; because the 11th of *Feb.* was expected

pected to be a very dangerous Crisis; as appears from the Relator's Account, who thus states the Case.

“ The Hands a little swelled; but lest any Thing
 “ more dreadful should happen at this dangerous
 “ Time, (for it was now the ninth Day) it was
 “ agreed to apply Blisters to the Arms in the Even-
 “ ing; nor indeed was it done too soon; for there
 “ began to be both a Subfultus Tendinum and a
 “ Convulsion of the Lips: he was very restless all
 “ Night, for the Fever burnt violently; and there
 “ came on a Delirium and a Tremor of the whole
 “ Body.”

In this affecting Account of the ninth Day of the Disease, when a Fever is said to have burnt violently, it might have been hoped, that, out of the numerous Classes which compose the Materia Medica, some powerful Remedies would have been selected, to calm, refresh and support the Spirits and remaining Strength of this greatly afflicted Patient. And if the Reader is as much affected as I am, I am sure he will be very sollicitous to hear of some effectual Remedy in these dangerous Extremities: I will therefore proceed, with as much Brevity as the Nature of this interesting Disquisition will admit, to satisfy his Enquiry. On the 11th in the Evening the Fever burnt violently (no Mention of any Medicine being given) and the 12th in the Morning he was not capable of either speaking or swallowing: however a Clyster,

was injected, which worked very well: but no Account of any other Remedies till the 13th and 14th of *Feb.* which are put together; when the first Account is, that the Fever continually remained, and that cardiac and diaphoretic Medicines had been given, without any Success. But as I know of no Medicines in the Class of Cardiacs, which could be expected to be of much Service in this Case; and as no Mention is made what particular Medicines they were; I shall go on without any Remarks, to the Conclusion of the important 15th of *Feb.* where I must beg the Reader's Attention, and appeal to his own Judgment, if my first Proposition, concerning the Inefficacy of Medicines publicly known and in common Practice for the Cure of Fevers, be not fully established.

The 15th of *Feb.* some Difference of Opinion appears to have prevailed amongst the Gentlemen in Consultation; the Conclusion of which is thus stated: They contended for cephalic Medicines, which are reckoned proper to remove a Delirium and Tremor of the Nerves; which Method of Cure, however well it might succeed, might cut off some Branches of the Disease, but could not wholly eradicate it: for however the other Symptoms might be abated, the Fever, which was the Cause of the Disease, still remained. Nevertheless “ we prescribed Spir. Cranii
 “ Humani & Sal. Armon. volat. and *Feb.* the 17th
 “ in the Morning his Fever and Convulsions raged
 “ more

“ more violently.” Could any Thing less be expected ! Alas ! how deficient was the *Materia Medica*, when, in the last Extremity, Physicians had Recourse to *Spiritus Cranii Humani* !

Was it so very barren, so fruitless, that so able, respectable and learned a Physician as *Dr. Friend*, in Consultation with several others, could find nothing better in the whole *Pharmacopeia*, or more likely to relieve their afflicted Patient ! And will then the Gentlemen of the English College of Physicians, many of whom far exceed *Dr. Friend*, both in Respect to Learning, physical Abilities, and other Praise-worthy Qualities : Will they any longer suffer that Life and Health (of which they have taken upon themselves to be Guardians) to be risked on such a precarious Foundation ? Forbid it Humanity, and inspire them with Resolution to emancipate themselves from a servile Attachment to obsolete Rules and Modes, those perpetual Bars to physical Improvement ! Let them imitate the Example of those their worthy and learned Predecessors ; who not many Years ago, having examined all the Medicines made use of in Practice for the Cure of Fevers, ranged them in different Classes and specified their Manner of Operation, compared them to the Combustibles with which the Prophet Daniel destroyed the Babylonish Dragon ; and, after giving a friendly Caution to the People, not to suffer themselves to be deluded, gave a lively Description of Chymistry :

from whose inexhaustible Springs, Remedies pure, mild and friendly to Nature may be drawn, and on which alone a Dependence may be placed, in Cases of such Distress.

As therefore, I humbly presume the Reader is fully satisfied that my Propositions, concerning the Insufficiency of all the Medicines publicly known for the Cure of Fevers, is fully established; I shall close this Account, by informing those who may be desirous to know the Fate of the afflicted Nobleman, that, after having, by an astonishing Strength of Constitution, maintained a Conflict against an inexorable Enemy for twenty-four Days, he died, universally lamented.

Leaving him therefore to sleep in Peace, I shall invite my Readers to engage in the Pursuit of pure, mild, and incorruptible Remedies, for the Purpose of preserving themselves and Friends from the dangerous Assaults of Fevers. And as Chymistry, from whence alone these pure, mild, and salubrious Remedies can be drawn, is described by a late worthy Censor of the College of Physicians, I will take the Liberty to transcribe it; hoping the Reader will not think his Time and Attention ill bestowed in the Contemplation of an Object, from which he may derive such singular Benefits.

' 'Tis to Chymistry we owe the late Discoveries,
 ' and to Experience, from her Advice the most com-
 ' pleat and most certain Knowledge concerning the
 ' sure Effects of the more simple Medicines. Nature
 ' lays open by her the Principles and compoundiſg
 ' Parts of all the vegetable, the animal and mineral
 ' Subſtances; as ſhe does by Anatomy the Figures,
 ' the Places and the Uſes of all the Organs of animal
 ' Bodies.

' She has, being practiſed by Gentlemen of Hon-
 ' our and Phyſicians of Integrity, expoſed the impu-
 ' dent Preſumption and fraudulent Exactions of all
 ' the chymical Impoſtors. Hardened by the Heat
 ' of their Furnaces, ſhe glories in her Separation of
 ' the Spirits from mineral Salts, and the other from
 ' Animals; and in her admirable Preparation of the
 ' Metals; but ſhe confeſſes, that the animal Alkalis
 ' are deſtroyed by her, when converted into uſeleſs
 ' Magiſteries and Precipitates; and that the Earths
 ' when calcin'd, are corrupted by her Fires, that the
 ' Vegetables, in her Extracts, leave behind the groſſer
 ' and more earthly Parts; the Spirits the more ac-
 ' tive, being forced to fly away by her Tortures.—
 ' She owns that all her fix'd Salts are of the ſame
 ' kind, being robbed of all their ſpecificating Vir-
 ' tues; and that her Oils are all an exalted and
 ' cloſely united Sulphur and embodied Fire, which re-
 ' tains only the hardly diſtinguiſhable Marks of their
 ' native Power, evident to almoſt every Senſe in the
 ' aromatic

‘ aromatic Plants. But she values herself by the Ser-
 ‘ vice she offers to preserve Health and prolong Life
 ‘ by her Tinctures, which being made by the va-
 ‘ rious Liquors and Menstruums of natural Water and
 ‘ Wine, the Spirits (acid, volatile and vinous) can
 ‘ imbibe and extract all those wonderful Mixtures,
 ‘ which Nature has lodged in all the Plants. She
 ‘ commends and applauds the Infusions and Decocti-
 ‘ ons (the Galenical Tinctures;) which she imitates
 ‘ and improves to the greater Purposes of the Cure of
 ‘ Diseases.

‘ She takes Care not to lose the most æthereal or
 ‘ finest Spirits, by the exact Closure of her Vessels;
 ‘ while she rends by the Heat of her Fires, the most
 ‘ compact and stubborn Contextures of the Ingredi-
 ‘ ents. She employs every Liquor in her Service :
 ‘ the soft Waters of the Spring, or simple Milk-Water;
 ‘ the generous Juices of all the Grapes, the Vinegar,
 ‘ and the penetrating acid ; volatile or oily Spirits,
 ‘ drawn from her three Kingdoms ; the vegetable,
 ‘ animal and mineral. To these all the Vegetables,
 ‘ the Leaves, Flowers, Seeds, all the Gums and Bal-
 ‘ sams ; and the Minerals prepared, freely commu-
 ‘ nicate all their Virtues, cephalic and cordial, and
 ‘ those which raise or compose the Spirits, and all
 ‘ the Alterers of the Blood, in their various and dif-
 ‘ ferent Manners. She prepares them to pass through
 ‘ the Stomach into the Blood, and by it into the
 ‘ Nerves. The Stomach is instantly heated or cooled,
 ‘ cleansed

‘ cleansed of its viscous Phlegm, or actuated with the
 ‘ Supply of the digestive temperate acid ; and made
 ‘ able, by the Corroboratives, to contract itself, and
 ‘ force out of her Glands her own Dissolvent.

‘ They likewise convey the purging Qualitiés of
 ‘ Rhubarb, Sena, Aloes, Jallop, &c. through the
 ‘ Stomach unmolested into the Bowels. They deliver
 ‘ to the Blood, by the lacteal Vessels, the healing
 ‘ Balsams of the Plants, by which the Blood is made
 ‘ florid, more firm, consistent and uniform. They
 ‘ send, with their rapid Circulation, their Balms to
 ‘ the Lungs and Kidneys; their penetrative Parts to
 ‘ the Spleen and Liver. The Brain as soon receives
 ‘ the spicey aromatic Spirits of the Flowers and Seeds,
 ‘ and by them fortifies and increases its Spirits.
 ‘ They go forward to the Nerves, disperse the Ob-
 ‘ structions there; and enter into all the Fibres of
 ‘ Sense and Motion. The Liquor does not alter or
 ‘ vitiate the specific Contexture of any one Simple.
 ‘ The incomprehensible Varieties are preserved entire
 ‘ and undisturbed by them. The Stomach receives
 ‘ from one the bitter and spicey, from another the
 ‘ bitter and balsamic, the bitter and acrid from a
 ‘ third, and the bitter and cooling from a fourth.
 ‘ The feverish Blood is refreshed by one with a wa-
 ‘ tery Acid : Now with a watery Jelly, then with a
 ‘ watery and temperating Sweetness. It has the
 ‘ Power of separating its Impurities, supported by
 ‘ the astringent Parts of one, and the more rough and
 ‘ cementing

‘ cementing of another. The Spirits are increased
 ‘ by those of one Class, moved and irritated by those
 ‘ of another, restrained and governed by a third.

‘ These (adds the learned Cenfor) were the In-
 ‘ struments of the successful Practice of Physic, when
 ‘ it had a just Regard to the Welfare of the Patient.
 ‘ They are now thought to give Trouble in the Pre-
 ‘ paration, to effect the Cure in smaller Quanti-
 ‘ ties, and prevent the great Design of the projected
 ‘ Profit.’

Having given the Reader an Opportunity of examining a Picture, in which not only the outward Features, but also the different Qualities, Properties, Operations and Effects of the Original are delineated; if he will now be pleased to pursue his Enquiries, and attend to the various Relations of Facts and Occurrences, which will occasionally be introduced in the following Pages, he will clearly perceive, that it is from Chymistry alone, those mild, pure and incorruptible Remedies are to be obtained, which can, with any Degree of Certainty, be depended upon for the Cure of Fevers. For an introductory Proof of this, the following real and genuine Matter of Fact is related.

A young Lady, of about fourteen Years of Age, was seized with a feverish Complaint, accompanied with Pains in her Stomach and other Parts: where-
 upon

upon the Gentlemen, who usually attended the Family, were sent for. What Methods were used for her Recovery I do not know; but, doubtless, they were such as were thought most likely to effect it.—However, it unfortunately happened, that all the Medicines which could be thought of had no good Effect; for, instead of receiving any Relief, she continued to grow worse: and after some Time, it was thought proper to remove her into the Country.—What Methods were pursued there, is not material; as my only Reason for mentioning this Case, is for a further Confirmation of what I have so often taken Notice of before, respecting the Inefficacy of Medicines for the Cure of Fevers; and likewise, to prove the Reasonableness of instituting others better calculated for that Purpose. Wherefore I shall not detain the Inquirer with a Detail of all that happened during a tedious Illness, but content myself with the following Circumstances. After the Patient had been some Time in the Country, she was very desirous to return to Town; but had so dangerous a Fever, that she could not be removed, unless that could in some Measure be allayed, which the usual Remedies could not effect. It happened, that a Relation of the young Lady's went to see her, and, hearing that the Fever could by no Means be abated, told her Mother that he knew of a Febrifuge; and apprehended, if it could be obtained, it would so far subdue it, as to enable her Daughter to bear the Fatigues of the Journey. The Mother, though very unwilling

to give any Medicines which were not ordered by the Physicians, having received the Information from a very respectable Friend, in whom she placed great Confidence, desired he would endeavour to procure it as soon as possible. In Compliance with her Request, he came to me, and desired I would let him have some of the Febrifuge, for a Relation of his, who had a very bad Fever. I said, there was no Doubt but the young Lady was attended by some Gentleman of the Faculty; and if so, I would gladly be excused from complying with his Request. Which Reply induced the Gentleman to give me the Account related above; and to add, that, as all other possible Means had been used in vain, and as the Febrifuge was perfectly mild and safe, the other Medicines should be omitted for some Time, and that should be given. Being prevailed upon by these Arguments, I let him have a small Quantity, with which he hastened away. But, in the mean Time, the Gentlemen who attended the Patient had been there, and ordered the Medicines to be continued; which caused a Doubt in her Friends how to act; it being then Evening, the Fever very bad and accompanied with a violent Diarrhœa: and therefore thinking her in great Danger, they determined to omit the other Medicines, and give the Febrifuge. Whereupon, two or three Tea-spoonfuls were given, and a little Time after repeated; when the sick Person began to be more composed, and the Fever somewhat abated: The Febrifuge being repeated again, she became
still

still more easy and tranquil; and (to use the Words of the Relator) had more Ease and composed Sleep that Night, than she had experienced for a considerable Time: so that, when the Gentlemen came the next Day to visit her, they were agreeably surprized to find their Patient so much better, and that the Medicines had produced the desired Effect.

But this agreeable Scene was soon changed through an odd Event. The Nurse, instead of putting all the other Medicines away, as she had been ordered, had left one of the Bottles in the Room, which one of the Gentlemen happened to see; and, being quite unacquainted with what had been done, asked why that had not been given? and ordered it to be taken immediately: which neither the Patient nor the Nurse had Presence of Mind to excuse, or Resolution to refuse; and with Reluctance complied with the Order. But this Event was unfortunate; for in a short Time not only the Fever, but also the Diarrhoea, which had almost ceased, returned; and both became so very bad in the Evening, as to cause Apprehensions of immediate Danger. In this Situation of Things, what remained to be done? no Physicians were at Hand to advise with: therefore, in this Emergency, it was resolved, once more to put by the Medicines which had been sent in, and to make Use of the Febrifuge. How often it was then given I cannot say; but (according to the Account I had from the Relator) such were the happy Effects it produced,

produced, that some Time after it was given, the Patient began to be much easier, the Fever and the Diarrhoea abated, and the Patient slept pretty composedly the latter Part of the Night. The following Day she was so much better, that when her Physicians visited her in the Afternoon, they said, she might safely be removed to Town the next Day; which was done accordingly: where I shall leave her, having had no other Concern in this Transaction, than as above related. I have introduced it in this Place, as a Specimen of the Proofs to be inserted at the End of this Treatise. And if the Reader will be pleased to examine them with the Care and unbiassed Attention, suitable to a Subject in which himself and dearest Friends are nearly concerned, I doubt not but his judicious Reflections will lead him to be thankful to Divine Providence, that, by the Help of Chymistry, a Febrifuge hath been obtained, mild, pleasant and friendly to Nature, as Breast-milk; and which, without giving the least Ruffle to the most delicate and weak Constitution, or Disturbance to the Stomach, gently flows to correct and expel the noxious Principles, which, in Fevers, mix with the Blood, attack the Heart, disturb the Spirits, and bring on those alarming Symptoms, which too frequently extinguish the Lamp of Life.

But, as this mild and powerful Remedy, which produced those salutary Effects, is not to be bought, it may naturally be said, where is the Use of being informed

informed that a Febrifuge is discovered, by which the destructive Effects of Fevers are prevented; when, at the same Time, we are told it cannot be purchased at any Price? In Order, therefore, to remove all Grounds of Censure, for attempting to engage the Attention either of the Public or of private Persons, to a Subject, from which no immediate Advantage can be derived to either, the Author hopes the following Narrative, concerning the Discovery in Question, will be accepted as a sufficient Excuse.

Something more than twenty Years ago, I had an only Son taken with an inflammatory Fever, which resisted all the Means and Medicines which could be procured. In Consequence of which he died. This brought me to reflect how uncertain and inadequate to the Cure of Fevers all the known Means and Medicines applied for that Purpose, were: And at the same Time to think, that doubtless from among the hidden Treasures of Nature, Remedies might be procured more powerful, certain and effectual for the Cure of those destructive Diseases; and having communicated those Thoughts to my late Brother, (of whose chymical Abilities there are many standing Monuments *, not only in Great Britain and

Ireland,

* It is to him and his indefatigable Researches in Chymistry, that this Nation is indebted for that Acid Liquor, being made in
sufficient

Ireland, but also in other Countries,) he likewise was of the same Opinion.

But in the Discussion of so important a Subject, a very material Objection presented itself. For as there are many Sorts or Denominations of Fevers, and as it is a commonly received Maxim, that a Remedy which will cure one Fever may do Harm in another; if that Opinion was founded in Truth, it would be in vain to attempt finding out a general Febrifuge. I answer: Though there are said to be many different Denominations of Fevers, their specific Differences are seldom distinguishable at first.—On the contrary, their various Symptoms of Malignity, Putridity, &c. &c. generally come on by Degrees, and consequently, if opposed in proper Time by Remedies adapted to resist Putrefaction, and defend the Heart and other vital Parts from their malignant Attacks, by gently insinuating themselves to their Relief, without weakening the Constitution, or disturbing the Stomach, Fevers would seldom appear under so many different and alarming Forms.

Being

sufficient Quantity to bring the Manufactory of Printed Linens and Cottons, to its present perfect and flourishing State; as well as those great Variety of beautiful Colours in our Staple Manufactory of Broad Cloth, which could not have been effected without it. He also made other useful Discoveries, which I shall forbear to mention.

Being by these Reflections led to think, that such a Febrifuge might be made, the next Thing to be considered, was, from what Principles and by what Methods it might be accomplished: And after many chymical Experiments and tedious Processes, through the Favour of Providence, this mild, innocent and powerful Febrifuge was obtained.

My Brother being then engaged in several other chymical Processes, had not Time or Opportunity to make proper Trials; I therefore employed myself with great Assiduity and Circumspection in attending to the various vernal, autumnal and other Fevers for several Years, in order to find out, as near as possible, how far it could be relied upon; and to observe its principal Effects; which on all Occasions, were such as served to convince me, that by a timely and proper Use of this powerful Remedy, Fevers might generally be prevented from producing any alarming Symptoms or fatal Consequences.

I therefore thought it a Duty incumbent upon me, to make it as generally useful to Society as it might be in my Power. For this Purpose, as long ago as the Year 1760, I made Application to that great and worthy Encourager of Arts and useful Discoveries, the then Duke of Argyll; but his Grace unfortunately died soon afterwards, before any Thing material was determined. The Loss of so great and good a Support, did not however prevent me from taking
every

every Opportunity which offered, of gaining further Confirmation of its powerful Effects. And finding them far exceed my utmost Expectations, I thought that by distributing it in the Villages and remote Parts of the Nation, where Fevers frequently carry off the most useful of the Inhabitants, it would annually preserve many valuable Members of the Community. These Thoughts induced me in 1762, to offer Proposals for that Purpose to several Members of both Houses of Parliament. Before they were all delivered, I perceived that my Zeal for having it made thus useful, had caused me to commit a very great Error, and that so long as it remained in private Hands, the Quantity which could be made, so far from answering any such Purpose, would not supply the Wants of those, who were become acquainted with its Virtues, and were continually soliciting for it.— I therefore retained the Remainder of the Proposals, and declined all further Thoughts on that Head.— But being still desirous to have it made as extensively useful as possible, my Reflections led me to conclude, that should the *Materia Medica* be enriched by the Addition of so valuable an Acquisition, it would thereby become the Means of preserving many Families from Misery and Distress, by preventing the premature Death of those, who were their principal Support.

Prompted by these Considerations, I made Application to several Physicians; but though some of
those

those Gentlemen seemed to believe it a Matter worthy of Attention, their Situations were such as rendered it impracticable for them to promote it. I then perceived it would be very difficult to obtain such necessary Assistance, as would insure Success. And, having for a long Time taken a great Deal of Pains, as well as been at considerable Expences in my Pursuits and Enquiries to obtain perfect Information, as to the Virtues, Properties and Effects of the Febrifuge, and thereby exhausted the greatest Part of the first Principle, by which alone it is to be obtained, the Preparation whereof is extremely tedious, I determined to preserve the small Remainder, and a sufficient Quantity of the Febrifuge, for the Use of my Family; and not make any more, or give myself any further Trouble about it.

Not long after I had formed these Resolutions, several Persons (who had experienced its happy Effects in their respective Families and those of their Friends) strongly intreated me to make more, and reproached me with being guilty of a Breach of Humanity, for declining to make it, when at the same Time no other Persons were instructed therein. However, though I could not comply with their Request, yet having, in that Interval, seen and heard of many distressing Scenes of Sorrow produced by Fevers, which I was fully persuaded might have been prevented, had the Chymical Febrifuge been added to the *Materia Medica*, I resolved to make

Application to other Gentlemen of the Faculty, who I flattered myself would be induced, by their Humanity and Regard to the Preservation of Mankind, to enter into a serious Investigation of a Subject which so immediately related to their Profession. But I still found myself mistaken; for, in Conversation with some of them, (of whose benevolent Dispositions I had formed, and still entertain the highest Opinion) I was told, in a very candid and genteel Manner, they had a very great Esteem for the Authors of useful Discoveries; but, in Respect to such Propositions, they could not be of any Service, as the College never meddled with or accepted them.

In discoursing with another on the same Subject, after I had, with the greatest Ingenuofness and Truth, assured him of the safe and mild, yet powerful Effects of the Febrifuge, I intimated a Desire of having an Opportunity of proving the Truths of what I had asserted, by relieving Persons afflicted with Fevers in some of the Hospitals; and, at the same Time, represented to him that it might be done without any Risque or Possibility of Danger, the Properties of the Febrifuge being such as never to ruffle or disturb the most delicate Constitution. However, instead of receiving a favorable Reply to what I thought a very reasonable Request, I was answered by that too rigid Abettor of collegiate Rules and Maxims, that, should any Physician give Consent for such a Trial to be made, he would move to have him

him expelled the College. With due Deference to that Gentleman's physical Abilities and other respectable Qualities, I must beg Leave to think, it would be more conducive to the general Happiness of Mankind, and a more likely Method to promote Improvements in the Art of Healing, if all the Members of that divine Science, instead of zealously vindicating and adhering to particular Privileges, Rules and Maxims, obtained, made and adopted, at a Time when liberal Arts and Notions were almost hid under the Clouds of Superstition and Ignorance, would use their Endeavors to discover or encourage Discoveries of Remedies, more effectual for the Cure of Fevers, than any yet publickly known. For, (whatever Improvements have of late been made in Respect to the Cure of other Diseases) I appeal to themselves and daily Experience, if, from the first Institution of the College to this Time, any Medicines have been introduced into public Practice, which can, with any reasonable Degree of Certainty, be relied upon for the Cure of those fatal Diseases, I have so often had Occasion to mention in the foregoing Pages. Nor indeed can any such Introduction take Place, as long as Gentlemen of the most distinguished Abilities and Learning (and, in other Respects, possessed of every social Virtue) will suffer such Endowments and amiable Qualities to be contracted within the narrow Limits prescribed by ~~such~~ ^{such} Rules and Maxims. If Physicians will neither use their own Endeavors to make Discoveries of new

Remedies, nor suffer the Admission of those made by the Study, Labour and Expence of others, they who are honest and humane amongst them, may continue to lament the Precariousness of their Art, so far as respects the Cure of Fevers; Parents bewail the Loss of beloved Sons and Daughters; and Children be rendered distressed and wretched Orphans, by the malignant Effects of those destructive Diseases.

It has been mentioned in some of the foregoing Pages, that when, by a Variety of Proofs, I was certain of being possessed of a Discovery, in which Society was essentially interested, I thought it a Duty incumbent upon me, to use every justifiable Means in my Power to prevent it remaining useless; I hope therefore no particular Gentleman of the Faculty will be offended with me for relating those Matters of Fact, which are necessary to shew what were the Means made Use of for that Purpose. And, (in Regard to my general Observations respecting the Rules of the College) if, through Mistake or Mis-information, I have said any Thing that is not literally true, I flatter myself I shall be excused by that learned and respectable Body; as what I have been led to advance, proceeded from no other Motive than a full Conviction, that, should all good Physicians resolve to disclaim and reject such Rules, Orders and Maxims, as tend to discourage and prevent useful Improvements being made and admitted into the Art of Healing, and use their best Endeavors to bring that

that noble Science to its greatest Degree of Perfection, the Cure of Fevers would soon be brought to equal Certainty with the Solution of Problems in the Mathematicks; or, at least, their destructive Effects would be prevented with the same Ease, as a Mortification from a Puncture or slight Incision.

But, as this last Proposition is of that Sort, which, as I before observed, is apt to impress the Mind with a Disbelief of whatever is contrary to established Rules and commonly-received Opinions, lest by being thought *new*, it should have that Effect on some Readers, I am glad to have an Opportunity of informing them it is not so; and that several very learned physical Writers and experienced Physicians, coincide therewith. One has given it as his Opinion, that it was possible to form an Hypothesis in the Practice of Physic, equally certain, in many Respects, with those of Geometricians. Another learned Graduate of the College hath observed, that Nature is plain, simple and direct in all her Ways; her Procedure regular and geometrical. A third (after having travelled many Years, and declared, that he had obtained more Knowledge by his Observations and Experience in the Cure of Fevers, than from all the Books he had read) proceeds to make many judicious and reasonable Observations respecting them; and on the Means and Medicines generally made Use of for that Purpose: which he affirmed are much oftner hurtful than salutary; concluding, that, though it may seem

a Paradox to some, he will venture to lay it down as a self-evident Principle, there are very few Fevers, except in pestilential Cases, “but may be cured by the first Intention, without waiting for the tedious Expectancy of (at the best) a very doubtful Crisis.” A fourth, in his Inquiries respecting those Diseases, remarks, that all Fevers prove fatal if the morbid Matter be not separated from the Blood by its internal Motion; and that the Medicines generally made Use of, instead of assisting the Blood to produce that necessary Operation, frequently prevent it; and often render slight Fevers incurable.

To these Opinions, which bear Testimony of the Truth of my Propositions, I might add many others; but suppose it unnecessary.

Left any Readers should surmise, that the Operations and Effects I have ascribed to the Chymical Febrifuge are not literally true, I must beg Leave to inform them, (and I hope I shall be credited) that, however unable I may be to prove, explain and enforce my Propositions in that clear, solid and ample Manner their great Importance demands; yet, exclusive of the Esteem and Veneration justly due to Probity and Honesty, my Deference and Respect to the Public would have restrained me from presuming to lay them before that discerning and awful Tribunal, were they not founded on certain and undeniable Proofs.

During

During a Period of near twenty Years, I have had such Opportunities to be certain, that the Chymical Febrifuge hath constantly produced the Effects I have described, that I shall venture to fix it as an Axiom, it will ever produce the same; and on that Principle I shall submit it to the judicious Determination of the Reader, whether it is more eligible to risque his Health and that of his Friends, on Means allowed by all to be precarious, (and, by many, to be dangerous;) or to inquire for those, which, by repeated Trials, have been found perfectly safe and efficacious. If he chooses the latter, by pursuing his Inquiries he will very soon have the Satisfaction to know for a Certainty, that, by the Help of Chymistry, a Febrifuge hath been discovered, which is as mild, pleasant and friendly to Nature as Breast-milk. This will plainly appear, if the Reader will be pleased to examine the subsequent historical Narrative of Cures, by which he will perceive how and by what Modes of Action the Chymical Febrifuge produces such immediate and happy Effects.

However, as I am aware that when any Matters of this Sort are under Consideration, the human Mind (either from its own active Monitor, or from the insidious Insinuations of others) is apt to imbibe Suspicions; that the Facts are not fairly and truly stated, I must once more beg Leave to make my Appeal to the Candour of the Reader; and desire he will believe me, when I declare, that, in the following historical
Narrative

Narrative of Cures, I have not made Use of any Amplifications, with a View to impress his Mind with a Belief, that the Chymical Febrifuge possesses more or greater Qualities than it really does: and likewise, that, in any future Disquisition, no Consideration shall induce me to deviate from that strict and genuine Truth, which ought always to actuate the Mind of those, who offer Propositions, on which the Lives of Thousands depend.





C A S E I.

A Young Person had a feverish Complaint for upwards of two Years, which brought her very low; and in *June 1759*, she was taken with a severe inflammatory Fever. I saw her in that Situation, when she asked me to give her some of the Febrifuge, which I accordingly did: and, by taking it at proper Intervals, she got entirely quit of the Fever; and afterwards enjoyed a much better State of Health, than she had done for many Years before.

C A S E II.

A Person near *Soho-Square* was taken ill of an inflammatory Fever, which resisted every Method made Use of for her Relief; on which a Person (who had been very kind to her in this unhappy Situation, and often experienced the happy Success attending the Use of the Chymical Febrifuge) intreated me to send some for the Preservation of the sick Person:

H

but,

but, being informed she was attended by a Gentleman of the Profession, I desired to be excused: however, her benevolent Friend strongly solicited for her, and said that several young Children would be left destitute if she died. I at length was prevailed on to go and see her, and found her in a deplorable Situation; her Skin being dry and ruff, as when scorched by Fire, with a very irregular and tremulous Pulse. She told me (with a faltering Voice) she could not be thrown into a Perspiration, though Means had been used to that Intent for several Days; and intreated me to let her have what her Benefactress had so strongly recommended for her Relief. I could not resist her Intreaties, her Life seemed in such imminent Danger. I therefore gave her a small Quantity, of which she immediately took three Tea-spoonfuls in a Cup of Balm Tea, and repeated it again in a very little Time; by which, as she informed me afterwards, the Perspiration came on: and, repeating the Febrifuge five or six Times more (at proper Intervals) her Fever went off. She then began to recover and take Nourishment; and, in a few Days, was perfectly well.

C A S E III.

A Gentlewoman much advanced in Years was ill of a Fever, attended with great Pains in her Side and under her Breast; which nearly prevented her drawing Breath. I happened at that Time to call

on

on a Lodger at her House, when her Daughter told me, her Mother was dangerously ill of a Fever. I went into her Room, and asked if she would like to take the Chymical Febrifuge; which she willingly agreed to, and took about three Tea-spoonfuls in a Cup of Balm Tea: and, as I thought her in great Danger, I staid with her about ten Minutes; when her Pains seemed somewhat to abate. The Febrifuge was then repeated; and soon after she began to perspire, her Pain greatly diminished, and she seemed much inclined to Rest. I then desired she might be kept quiet; and presently after she went to sleep*, and slept composedly for several Hours: when, awaking, she found herself pretty easy, and much refreshed. The Remedy being repeated, she soon after rested again. And, by continuing the Use of

H 2

the

* It having frequently happened, that Persons who were extremely ill of Fevers, became composed and went to sleep, soon after having taken the Febrifuge; hath caused some Persons to insinuate, that there is Opium in the Composition: I therefore think it necessary to inform the Reader, it doth not contain the least Particle of that or any other narcotic Drug. Nevertheless, a very natural Reason may be assigned for so happy an Effect being produced thereby. For, when the Spirits of a sick Person are either depressed or too much agitated by uneasy Sensations or continual Pains, the Properties of this Remedy are such as gently and quickly to relieve the Heart and other vital Parts, remove those Pains and uneasy Sensations; and consequently Ease, Sleep and Health, will naturally succeed.

the Febrifuge (at proper Intervals) in three or four Days was perfectly restored to Health.

C A S E IV.

One Morning I happened to call to enquire for a Person, at a House, where I saw a Child lying on its Mother's Lap extremely ill of a Fever. Her Pulse and Heart beat in such a Manner, as seemed to indicate immediate Death. I told the Mother if she would send to my House for some of the Febrifuge, it might, perhaps, save the Child's Life, but she then declined it; however, towards Evening she sent for it. I gave a small Quantity, and a Tea-spoon-ful was given immediately, and the same Quantity ten Minutes after; which being done, and the child put to bed, it soon went into a fine Sleep, and according to the Mother's own voluntary Relation, slept several Hours; and when she awoke, the Heart-beating had ceased, the Fever greatly diminished, and in two Days the child was quite well.

C A S E V.

In the Year 1759, A Person of a plethorick Habit, who had long studied and practised Pharmacy, being at my House upon Business, was taken with an unusual Sickness, followed by violent Pains in the Stomach, Head and Limbs; which continuing some Hours, was then accompanied with great Shiverings,
and

and dangerous Symptoms of an inflammatory Fever, which increasing very rapidly, became so alarming, as to make him apprehensive of fatal Consequences; seeing him in this Situation, I desired he would think of something for his own Relief; he replied, I am so excessive ill, and my Fever so violent, that I am at a loss what to do. I desired he would not be afraid or cast down, that if he could not think of any Thing to cure himself, and would choose to take the chymical Febrifuge he had so often sneer'd at, I doubted not but he would soon be well; he then willingly accepted the Offer. I gave him two Tea-spoon-fuls in a Cup of Water; he continued exceeding hot and florid, and in half an hour I repeated the Remedy, and soon after that, a third Time; when the Pain in his Head and Stomach began to abate, and continued so to do for about an Hour, when the Febrifuge was again repeated. He then went to sleep for some Time, when awaking, found himself much refreshed and easier; and by continuing the Febrifuge at longer Intervals, was the next Day so well recovered, as to be able to go about his Business; and being asked what he now thought concerning the Virtues of the chymical Febrifuge, he gave for Answer, I know I was extremely ill, my Fever violent and dangerous, and that I was surprizingly cured, though I expected not to recover.

This Gentleman was not only a Proficient in Pharmacy, but also a great Defender of its Rights, which he very zealously maintained; and yet, when he found himself attacked by a Fever, though he was a compleat Judge of the Pharmacopeia, it would not afford any Thing he could rely upon, but was obliged to be cured by what he had often ranged in the class of quack Medicines; a Term which those Gentlemen prefix to all Medicines that are not to be found in their Alcoran. However, he afterwards proved himself a true Penitent for this his Apostacy, and manifested in the most forcible Manner, his great Prepossession in Favor of established Customs; for though he had once found himself (as he then acknowledged) almost miraculously cured of a violent and dangerous Fever, and had himself by the same Means preserved the Life of another, yet he soon embraced his former Sentiments: For being some Years after taken in nearly the same Manner as before-mentioned, he would not now recede from his Opinion, but suffered the Fever to encrease and put a Period to his Life, rather than apply for the Febrifuge which he before owned had preserved it.

C A S E VI.

Some Time after, a Servant to a Merchant in the City was taken ill; and, a Fever coming on, he was attended by his Master's Apothecary; but
growing

growing worse for a considerable Time, it was apprehended he would not recover; the Person mentioned (in the proceeding Case) being acquainted in the Family, procured a small Phial of the Chymical Febrifuge, which, having been given to the sick Person, he was in a few Days restored to perfect Health.

C A S E VII.

A Person in the prime of his Life, of a florid Complexion, and replete Habit, was ill of a Cold, attended with a Fever, which continued to increase for several Days; I went to enquire how he did one Evening; and found him so ill, that, when I entered the Room, I was greatly surprized, by hearing him say with a faltering Voice, “ Lord have Mercy upon me, I cannot live.” I asked where lay his chief Complaint; he answered, as well as he could, “ I am so oppressed at my Heart, I cannot draw my Breath, it is impossible for me to live, except I have immediate Relief;” and asked me if I could not give him something to ease him: I told him, as a Gentleman of the Profession had him under his Care, he must excuse me giving him any Thing; he replied, “ it is very hard I must be lost through your standing upon such Punctilios; If you can give any Thing to ease me, I beg you will.” Moved by his Entreaties and the Pain and Danger he was in, I mixed two or three Tea-spoon-fuls of the Febrifuge in a Cup of Water, which he immediately drank; I staid by him

him about ten Minutes, and then gave him the same Quantity; soon after his Pains began to abate, and in about a quarter of an Hour more, were so much diminished he could lie down, which he was not able to do before. He then went into a composed Sleep for several Hours, and when he awoke, had the same Quantity of the Remedy repeated; then slept again, and was the next Day so much recovered, as to be able to get up and go down Stairs, and in a few Days after was perfectly well.

C A S E S VIII, IX, and X.

A Gentlewoman had a long and tedious Fever, for the Cure of which many Remedies had been made Use of without Success; when an Acquaintance advised her to make use of the chymical Febrifuge; which having done, she was in a short Time restored to Health; this easy and unexpected Cure, gave her so high an Opinion of its salubrious Virtues, that she always kept it by her, to make use of in her Family. It happened sometime after, that her Husband being returning from a Journey, was taken ill of a Fever, and with great Difficulty arrived at his House in Town; his Wife being greatly alarmed, earnestly solicited him to take the Febrifuge, which he at first refused, but was with much Persuasion at length prevailed upon. What Quantity was given, and how often repeated I cannot say; but it had its usual Effect, so that in a few Days, he was thereby restored to perfect Health. After

After some Time, a Servant Maid of the above Gentleman's was taken suddenly ill of a violent Fever, of which her Mistress being informed, ordered her immediately to be put to Bed and the Febrifuge administered; which being done, she was so speedily recovered, as the next Day to be able to go about her Business. These extraordinary Cures gave the Gentleman (who with such Reluctancy was prevailed upon to take the Febrifuge) so high an Opinion thereof, that he ever afterwards would have it in his Possession as long as it could be procured; which afforded him Opportunities of relieving many Persons, both in his own Family and those of his Friends.

C A S E XI.

The Son of a Shopkeeper was taken with a Fever, which continuing for some Time became very high, and seemed to indicate imminent Danger. The Mother was persuaded to apply for some of the chymical Febrifuge, which having obtained and given to him, three Times within the Space of an Hour, he soon became easy and composed; and by repeating the Remedy at proper Intervals, he was restored to perfect Health.

The Mother, pleased and agreeably surprized to have met with a Remedy, by which a violent Fever was so easily removed and Health restored, desired to have some of the Febrifuge to keep by her;

I

which

which ſhe always applied to when any of her Family had Symptoms of a Fever, and always found it anſwer and often exceed her Expectations. It happened ſome Years after her firſt making Uſe of it, that a dangerous epidemic Fever greatly prevailed in London; inſomuch, that in ſome Houſes, whole Families caught it, and many died; and as ſeveral of her Family had Symptoms of it, ſhe immediately gave the Febrifuge; which had ſuch happy Effects, that neither herſelf, nor any one in her Houſe who could be prevailed on to take it, were either confined to their Rooms or kept their Beds; but a young Man in the Family of a florid and plethoric Habit, being ſeized with the Fever, and refuſing to take the Febrifuge, it increaſed, and ſoon became violent and dangerous. He then took Dr. James's Powders ſeveral Times, but without the deſired Effect; for the Diſeaſe continued, and there remained very little Hopes of his Recovery. The Perſon who firſt adviſed his taking the chymical Febrifuge, ſeeing him in that dangerous Situation, deſired he would then take it, and not throw away his Life; which he at laſt agreed to. Three Tea-ſpoonfuls were given to him, with Orders to repeat it in ten Minutes; but the firſt Doſe had ſuch a quick and ſurpriſing Effect, that he immediately became eaſy and wanted to reſt; the Remedy being given him a ſecond Time, he fell into a fine Sleep: and hath often ſince declared, that the Change from great Pain and Depression, to Eaſe and Comfort was ſo ſudden and unexpected,

that

that he never passed a Night with so much Satisfaction in his Life: And continuing the Use of the Febrifuge at Intervals for three or four Days, he was perfectly restored to Health.

What I have mentioned in the foregoing Case respecting Dr. James's Powders, is not done with a View to depreciate their Virtues, but as facts spontaneously related by the sick Person, and those who were Eye Witnesses of the whole Affair. As those Powders are almost the only Medicine publicly known, which are relied on for the Cure of Fevers. And yet many thousands of all Ranks and Conditions, are annually destroyed by these destructive Diseases, or thrown into Consumptions and other lingering Complaints thereby: it must naturally follow, that the Discovery of a Febrifuge, more safe, certain and effectual, and better adapted to all Constitutions and Denominations of Fevers, is earnestly to be wished for. And though a due Attention to real Facts, fairly and truly related in the Account of the foregoing and following Cures, may sufficiently convince every candid and unprejudiced Reader, that such a Remedy is in Reality discovered; nevertheless, in a Matter of so great Concern, it is presumed some Remarks will not be disagreeable, in order to set the Powders and the chymical Febrifuge in a proper Point of View; by which the Reader may have an Opportunity of judging, which of the two is the safest, and in all Cases most to be

depended upon. It would be invidious to say the Powders have not much Merit, and that many great Cures have not been done thereby: But it is likewise a well known Truth, that there are many Circumstances attending Fevers, in which they cannot be taken without the utmost Danger of producing fatal Consequences; and a variety of Constitutions to which they cannot be given with any Degree of Safety; and consequently Persons under such Circumstances can receive no Benefit from them, when attacked by Fevers. Whereas the chymical Febrifuge is so particularly mild and friendly to Nature, that it may with safety be given to Persons of the most delicate Constitutions; as it has no violent Operations, but removes the Disease by gently flowing to the Relief of the vital Parts, thereby mitigating Pain, reviving depressed Nature, and restoring it to Health. These are no hyperbolical Assertions; but if Facts and Proofs related with all possible Candour, are to be depended upon, a true and genuine State of the Case submitted to the Consideration of the Public.

C A S E S XII, XIII, and XIV.

A Gentlewoman of a weak and delicate Constitution, was so very subject to inflammatory Fevers, that generally from any Cold, or over Fatigue; a violent one was brought on, and that so frequently, as several Times in the Year to confine her
to

to her Bed and Room for many Weeks. I once happened to be with her, when it was apprehended a Fever was coming on, as she felt the Symptoms which generally preceeded. Having, accidentally, some of the Febrifuge with me, I perswaded her to take two Tea-spoonfuls in a Cup of Tea, and to repeat it at Bed-time. My Advice was complied with, the bad Symptoms vanished, and the next Day the Lady found herself as well as usual.— This having passed over in so easy a Manner, no further Notice was taken on either Side. In the Course of some Months, the same Symptoms appeared again, and a Gentleman of the Profession, who used to attend her, was sent for; but could by no Means prevent a dangerous Fever coming on; by which she was confined to her Bed for a considerable Time: however, in the Course of a Month or six Weeks, she got as well as usual. Some Time after, she had a like Return, and narrowly escaped with Life; remaining in a very weakly State for several Months. It happened, that a Neice of the same Person took cold and was seized with a dangerous sore Throat, attended with a very high Fever: her Mother advised her to take the Chymical Febrifuge; on which Application was made to me, to go and see her. I found the Fever very high, and the Throat ulcerated. Two or three Tea-spoonfuls of the Febrifuge were immediately given, and her Throat gargled therewith; which was repeated several Times that Day, and in the

the Night : the next Day the Fever was pretty well abated, and the Throat much better. This Method being continued, the young Lady got well in about four Days, without further Trouble ; which agreeably surpris'd her Mother. Some Days after I called, when she desired me to go up to her Sister, (the Lady above-mentioned) who was then very ill. I went up, and found the Fever very high ; was told it began in the same Manner it used to do : and, they desiring to have some of the Febrifuge, I left them about two Ounces, with Directions to give it as usual : which (by the Blessing of God) had its accustomed Success ; infomuch, that instead of keeping her Bed for a Month or six Weeks, as usual, the Fever was presently subdued ; and, in six or eight Days, she was perfectly recovered.

Being thus easily and happily freed from so dangerous a Companion, the Febrifuge was kept by her, to be in Readiness if it should return ; which it did some Months after, on her having caught cold. The Remedy was then given and repeated, with its usual Success ; so that, in a few Days, she was restored to Health. Her Sister (observing that such constant and speedy Relief was obtained by the Use of the Febrifuge) desired she would take it, at proper Intervals, for some Time ; in Order, if possible, to strengthen her Constitution : which succeeded so well, that, for several Years last past, she has had
no

no Return of her Fever; and can take a great deal more Exercise, than she had been able to do for many Years before.

C A S E XV.

A Person, in the Service of the East India Company, was seized with a Fever on Board one of their Ships; on being brought Home he grew much worse. I happened to call at his House on some Business, and his Sister told me, her Brother was very ill; and desired I would go up Stairs and see him. She persuaded him to take the Chymical Febrifuge; but he declined it, having had the Promise of an infallible Remedy. I took my Leave, and wished him Success. But the Medicine had not the desired Effect; for tho' the Disease was thereby put off for some Days, it then returned again with more Violence; when the same and many other Medicines were tried in vain, for the Disease became more and more dangerous and obstinate. I called when I went that Way, and was told the Fever sometimes remitted, sometimes intermitted, and at other Times was continual. He was attended by an eminent Physician: but every Means and Medicine proved ineffectual. Upon this it was thought adviseable to administer Dr. James's Powders, which were also given without Success: for, the Disease grew so bad, as frequently to deprive him of his Reason, for twelve or fifteen Hours at a Time. Being thus, by the Length and Violence of this ob-

stinate

stinate Malady, emaciated, and almost without any Hopes of Recovery; it was thought proper to apply to me for the Febrifuge. I found him in such a weak and deplorable Situation, as to be doubtful of any Remedy succeeding: but, being intreated by his Friends, I agreed to let him have mine; to which the Almighty was pleased to grant such particular Efficacy, that when I called to see him the next Day, at the Time he used to be raving in his Bed, I found him (to my great Surprise) sitting composed and easy in his Chair. And the Febrifuge being continued at proper Intervals, he began to recover very fast; and, taking proper Nourishment, in about three Weeks regained his former State of Health.

It is presumed it will not in this Place be thought improper, to offer some Remarks, in Order to shew, with how much more Ease and Safety Fevers are cured by the Chymical Febrifuge, than by any Means or Remedies puplickly known.—Whoever has been so unhappy as to go through the different Stages of a violent and continued Fever, preserving his Senfes, so far as to remember all the disagreeable and painful Circumstances attending thereon, would be apt to shudder at a bare Recital thereof; whereas when this mild and powerful Febrifuge is given in the beginning of Fevers, they are generally cured directly, without any further Trouble or Loss of Time, than lying a little while
in

in Bed, and drinking a few Spoonfuls of a pleasant balsamic Remedy; which expels the febrile Matter, protects and comforts the Heart, recruits the Strength, and restores Health.

This Proposition cannot, it is presumed, be thought contrary to Reason or Truth, by Persons, who, with Minds free from Prejudice, Prepossession, or private Interest, attentively read and observe, what is truly and candidly related in the before-mentioned Cases, as well as all the unfavourable Circumstances attending the Fever last mentioned; which, after having gone through such a Variety of Stages, resisted every Means and Medicine that could be thought of for several Months; and by its Violence and long Continuance, reduced the sick Person to the last Extremity; who, after all this, was restored to Health, by taking the Febrifuge for little more than a Week. May it not be concluded from those Considerations, that had he taken it two or three Times when he was first seized, it would have prevented his undergoing so much Pain and Danger, or giving so much Trouble, Sorrow and Anxiety to his Friends! And that were it in publick Use, many affecting and sorrowful Scenes would be prevented, and many useful Members of the Community preserved!

C A S E XVI.

A young Infant was taken ill with an inflammato-
K
ry

ry Fever, which having continued for some Time, an Acquaintance of the Father and Mother advised them to give it the Chymical Febrifuge; which having obtained, they gave it to the Child immediately, and repeated it again soon after. The Infant was exceedingly hot the fore Part of the Night, when the Remedy was again repeated; and towards Morning the Fever subsided, when the Child rested well. The next Morning the Febrifuge was repeated, and the Child was restored to perfect Health. The Father and Mother, pleased at having found such an easy and safe Remedy, carefully kept what remained; and in a few Days after, another of their Children was taken in the same Manner as the former. Perceiving the Fever coming on very fast, the Febrifuge was given with the usual Success; which induced the Father and Mother (who had a numerous Family of Children) to apply for the Febrifuge to keep by them, and had many Opportunities of experiencing its good and powerful Effects for many Years.

C A S E XVII.

A Person in the Country, having Mowers at work, went into the Field, and out of a Frolick took a Scythe from one of them, and mowed against the
Rest

Rest for a considerable Time. Being fat and lusty, and the Weather exceedingly hot, he was very much heated, and in that Condition went to his House and indiscreetly drank a large Draught of cold small Beer. He soon after found himself very ill, but concealed it from his Family; and in Hopes he should soon be better, took his Horse and rode about a Mile from Home; when he found himself so ill, and his Head so very bad he could not sit on his Horse: he alighted, and with much Difficulty was got home, where he was taken with great Shiverings, and Pains in his Stomach, Head and other Parts. A Person happened to be there, who seldom travelled without the Febrifuge in her Pocket; who seeing the Family in great Consternation, enquired what was the Reason, and being informed by the sick Person's Wife, desired her not to be so greatly alarmed or terrified; for, says she, "I have something with me, which, with the Blessing of God, will soon restore your Husband to Health." The sick Person being put to Bed, and a proper Quantity of the Febrifuge given and repeated soon after, the Pain in his Head, Stomach and Limbs, began gradually to diminish, nevertheless he was restless the beginning of the Night; but the Remedy being repeated at proper Intervals, he afterwards fell into an easy Sleep, and slept for several Hours; and in the Morning found himself so much better, as to be able to get up: but the Attack of the Fever had been so violent, as to render him very weak, therefore the Febrifuge was given to him two

or three Times that Day, and the next Morning he found himself perfectly recovered.

C A S E XVIII.

A Child about 14 Months old, having a long and obstinate Fever, a Person who had often seen and heard of many Persons having been cured of Fevers by the Chymical Febrifuge, advised the Mother to apply to me, who desired I would go and see the Child. I found it lying on the Nurse's Lap in a high Fever, with Symptoms of being convulsed in it's Bowels, and very little Hopes of its Recovery: nevertheless, the Mother desired to have the Febrifuge, which was immediately given, and soon after repeated; but in this Case it happened differently from what I had heard of or seen in any others; for in all the foregoing, and many others not mentioned, by a few Repetitions of the Febrifuge, the Disorders were soon overcome, and Health restored in a few Days; but in this Instance, the Disease had taken such deep Root, that, though the Patient was an Infant, more of the Febrifuge was made use of, than in any three of the preceeding Cases; for, instead of immediate Relief being obtained, it was four Days before it could be determined that the Child would recover, and near three Weeks before it was perfectly well.

C A S E XIX.

An eminent Tradesman was taken ill with great Pains in his Head and Limbs, accompanied some Times with Shiverings, at other Times with burning Heat, which continued alternately for several Hours. About nine in the Evening he found himself in a high Fever, his Pulse exceedingly high, and his Head affected with Symptoms which seemed to indicate a Delirium. He took three Tea-spoonfuls of the Febrifuge, and was to have the same Quantity given in half an Hour; but the Person who attended him neglected to give it, nevertheless he fell asleep, and slept composedly for upwards of two Hours; and when he awaked, was much better, was very easy and composed the Remainder of the Night; and the next Morning got up and went into his Shop: I called between nine and ten, and was surprized to find him up, but more so to hear he had been out of his Room, and omitted repeating the Remedy; for though his Fever was much abated, it was far from being cured. He was advised to go to Bed again, but excused himself on Account of urgent Business; however, by taking the Remedy three or four Times in the Course of the Day, he continued pretty well till about Eight in the Evening; when, by being fatigued and exposed to the open Air, his Fever was brought on again: he then went to Bed, and took a proper Quantity of the Remedy, and soon after fell into a fine Sleep; slept till two, when
awaking,

awaking, the Febrifuge was repeated, which caused him to pass the Remainder of the Night pretty easy; about nine in the Morning he was so much relieved as to be able to get up, and repeating the Febrifuge that Day at proper Intervals, was the next Morning so perfectly recovered, that he said, " I am now as well as ever I was in my Life".

C A S E XX.

The Wife of a Citizen was very ill of a Fever after a Lying-in, which resisted all the Means made Use of for her Relief. Her Husband having heard of singular Cures having been performed by the Chymical Febrifuge, applied to me to have some for her Relief. I gave him a small Phial, some of which was given as soon as he got Home, and repeated at proper Intervals; which had so happy and speedy an Effect, that in three or four Days, she was restored to perfect Health.

This speedy and unexpected Cure, gave the Gentleman so high an Opinion of the Febrifuge, that he desired to have some to keep by him for the Use of himself and Family; who for several Years frequently experienced its happy Effects, and whenever he went a Journey took it along with him: and happening to be at Portsmouth, he met with a London Trader of his Acquaintance who was seized with an inflammatory Fever, for which the former was
greatly

greatly concerned, knowing him to have a Wife and a large Family of Children; and thinking him in great Danger, gave him the Febrifuge. How often it was repeated I do not know, but it had its usual Success, infomuch that the next Day he found himself so well, as to be able to go about his Business.

C A S E XXI.

A young Person of about ten or twelve Years of Age was taken ill of a Cold, followed by a high Fever, and accompanied with great Pain in the Head and Limbs. Her Mother, who had for several Years experienced the salutary Effects of the Febrifuge, gave her a small Quantity; and by repeating : proper Intervals, the Fever was intirely removed; but on the third Day the Measles began to appear, and continued coming out without being attended with any Fever, though the Eruption was so great as nearly to resemble the Small Pox; the Remedy was continued for a Day or two, and the young Lady got well.

N. B. Several other Instances have happened, where the Efficacy of this mild and powerful Remedy hath been happily experienced both in the Small Pox and Measles, but as a Relation thereof would too greatly enlarge this Account of Cures, they shall therefore be omitted.

C A S E XXII.

A Schoolmaster's Daughter about nine Years of Age, was taken ill of a Cold and sore Throat, which continued to grow worse till the next Day. A dangerous Fever then came on. Her Father and Mother having heard of the great Efficacy of the Chymical Febrifuge, applied to me for some, and also entreated me to go and see the Child. I went and found her excessively ill, her Throat very bad, and the Fever so violent that her Skin had more the Appearance of a glowing Fire, than its natural Colour; and was very full of livid Spots. I persuaded them to send for a Physician, as I apprehended the Throat would be very much ulcerated; which in Effect proved so.— But the Father (with Tears in his Eyes) said he had heard so great a Character of the Febrifuge, that he would rather trust to that, and desired I would let him have it; for otherwise he feared he should lose his Child. Overcome by his Intreaties, I gave a proper Quantity; directing it to be frequently repeated. I went to see her some Hours afterwards, and found her Fever rather abated; but her Throat so bad, as almost to prevent her swallowing. The Remedy was repeated several Times in the Night, and the next Morning the Fever was much diminished; but her Throat still continued very bad. Many Persuasions were made Use of in Order to incite her to gargle it, but she could not be prevailed on to do it; nor would she take any Thing besides the Febrifuge, which she strove

proved to swallow greedily, as if by Instinct. The third Day the Fever was much abated, but the Throat no better; on which some Drops of the Remedy was applied to it, and soon after the Ulcer broke, discharging a great Quantity of corrupt Matter. The Febrifuge was continued the next Day, in Order to prevent a Return of the Fever, and to cleanse and heal the Throat. The young Person then began to take Nourishment, and, in a few Days, was perfectly recovered.

[Having related the before-mentioned Cures, which (as well as many others) were performed by the Chymical Febrifuge, with a continued Series of Success, I should think myself wanting in that ingenuous Sincerity, which ought to be observed in Matters of such Moment, if I omitted mentioning where it failed. And having, in the Course of twenty Years, met with one Instance of that Sort, I shall insert it with all the Exactness in my power.]

C A S E XXIII.

A Person of a florid Complexion was seized with an inflammatory Fever, when several Medicines were given to remove it, but it continued to grow worse for several Days; whereupon he was advised by an Acquaintance to take the chymical Febrifuge; which being procured was given, and several Times repeated: but the Fever continuing, the next Day I

L

was

was requested to go and see him. His Pulse was full and strong, but very regular; and I supposed the Disease would soon be removed, as it seemed to be of a much milder Sort than many of those which had been subdued by the Febrifuge, with the greatest Ease. However, in this Instance (for the first Time) I found myself mistaken: for, after it had been applied several Days, the Disease continued nearly the same; when some of his Relations came to see him, who advised to send for a Physician; which being done, the Patient was ordered to be removed into the Country; where, after the Gentleman had attended him some Time, he recovered.

C A S E XXIV.

A Gentlewoman, about forty, of a very corpulent Habit, was seized with so violent a Fever, that in ten or twelve Hours it brought on a Delirium, so as to prevent her knowing her own Sister; who, finding her in such a dangerous Situation, and having often experienced the good Effects of the Febrifuge in her own Family, hastened to me, desiring to have some for her Sister; whom she represented to be in the above dangerous Situation. I said, as her Sister was attended by Physicians, I must beg to be excused; as it might counteract what the Gentlemen had ordered. But she said, though her Sister had been visited by Physicians, they found her in such a Situation as not to think it proper to order her any Medicines; and
that,

that, if I would let her have the Febrifuge, she would attend and give it herself; and when the Gentlemen should think proper to order any Thing, she would then leave off giving that: and said it was very hard her Sister's Life should be lost, when Relief might be had. These Sollicitations, accompanied with Tears, induced me to let her have the Febrifuge, with which she hastened away, gave a proper Quantity, and repeated it several Times; how often I cannot say, but, as near as I can learn from Information, about the Quantity of an Ounce was given; when the Fever abated, the Delirium ceased, and the Patient recovered her Reason.

C A S E XXV.

A Person of a weakly Constitution (whose Family had often experienced the good Effects of the Febrifuge) was, by catching cold and over Fatigue, thrown into a violent Fever, which seemed to portend immediate Danger. One of her Friends made Application to me, and earnestly desired to have some of the Medicine. Now this happening after I had declined to make it, I desired to be excused: but by his Importunity, and representing the unhappy Situation her Children were likely to be reduced to, I at length consented to go and see her. I found her in such a Situation, as gave but small Hopes of her Recovery: nevertheless the Febrifuge was given, repeated in ten Minutes, and again at the End of fifteen; with Directions

be repeated afterwards at longer Intervals, as Occasion should require. Which, by the Blessing of God, had its usual happy Success: so that, in a few Days, she was able to look after her Business, being perfectly recovered.

OBSERVATION.

In a long Course of Years since the first Discovery of the Febrifuge, I have had many Occasions to experience its beneficial Effects in my own Family, none whereof has been mentioned; but as some of them were attended with particular Circumstances, I shall insert two of them, and the Reader may be assured they are candidly and truly stated.

CASE XXVI.

In the Year 1766, a Daughter of mine about 14 Years of Age, being with an Acquaintance in the City one Tuesday Morning, found herself indisposed, and continued so till Thursday, when she was taken with a severe Fit of Coughing, which with very little Intermission, continued for near half an Hour: but being of an active Disposition, when it was over, (though far from well) she took no further Notice of it at that Time; and the next Morning got up as usual, when the Measles were coming out very thick upon her Face; which not being aware of, she washed her Face with cold Water, and then went down Stairs; when a Person perceiving her Face full
of

of Spots, and not knowing what they were, indifcreetly advifed her to wafh it well with Vinegar *, which it was faid would take them away; and indeed in that it fucceeded too well, for it repelled the Meafles and they difappeared, which prevented the neceffary Care being taken; and ſhe continued to go about as uſual till Saturday Night, when a violent Fever came on; and advanced with ſuch amazing Rapidity, as in a very ſhort Time to bring on a Delirium. Her Head and Face were ſwelled to nearly twice their natural Size. In this Dilemma another Acquaintance (who fortunately lived very near, and always kept the Febrifuge for Emergencies in her own Family) was ſent for, and three Tea-ſpoonfuls thereof given immediately, and repeated pretty plentifully at proper Intervals; in a few Hours her Reaſon returned, by Degrees both the Fever and Swelling went off; and in fix or ſeven Days ſhe recovered her Health and Strength.

C A S E XXVII.

It happened ſeveral Years afterwards my ſaid Daughter caught Cold, and walking out in the Evening when a great Dew was upon the Ground increafed

* I choſe to mention this Caſe and Circumſtance, as it may be a Caution to others not to be guilty of the like Inadvertency, who may not be ſo happy as to have ſuch ſpeedy Helps at Hand.

ed it: she grew more and more indisposed, and about the third or fourth Day an inflammatory Fever came on, uncommonly severe; attended with such exquisite Pains in the Head, that it was with great Difficulty she could be got up Stairs. I happened to be out at the Time, but came home soon after, and being informed of her Situation, went up to her Room and found the Symptoms of a Delirium; she had just taken three Tea-spoonfuls of the Febrifuge, I then repeated it, and again in half an Hour; the Pain in her Head continued excessive till about nine in the Evening, when that and the Fever began to abate; the Febrifuge was then repeated, a plentiful Perspiration came on about eleven, and she fell into a fine composed Sleep; slept till Day-light the next Morning, when the Fever and Pain in the Head were nearly gone, and in three or four Days she was quite recovered.

In this Instance I had an Opportunity minutely to observe, not only the powerful Effects of the Chymical Febrifuge, but also to perceive how very soon these Diseases make Impressions upon the most healthy and strong Constitutions; for though the Fever and Pain in the Head were gone, the next Day she found herself extremely weak; it need not therefore be wondered, that so many, young, healthy and robust People, should be emaciated and carried off by those Diseases, when suffered to make their Ravages for a great number of Days, which they frequently

frequently do: for though this Fever from its first Appearance to its total Extinction, was but of 24 Hours Duration, it had so far weakened a Person in the Prime of Life, as scarce to leave her sufficient Strength to walk down Stairs; however, in about three Days, she was able to take the same Exercise as before. I had very soon after Opportunities of experiencing the same happy Effects of this Remedy in other Instances nearly similar; but shall omit inserting them, supposing those I have thus fairly and candidly stated, sufficient Evidence to establish the Truth of my Proposition, concerning the Superiority* of the Chymical Febrifuge above all the Medicines publickly known for the Cure of Fevers, and also to prove that Providence has given to this Nation a long-wished for Discovery, by which these fatal Diseases are generally cured in the Beginning; without waiting for a doubtful Crisis, or having Recourse to Blisters, and other troublesome Expedients.

It

* It is not uncommon for Persons after they are thought to be recovered from Fevers, to have some of the febrile Matter remain in the Constitution, and afterwards fall on the Lungs and cause a Consumption; or the Legs, or other Parts; causing the Patient to drag on an uncomfortable Life: whereas, in all the Instances I have known by Observation or strict Enquiry, I have not found one Person that was cured by the Chymical Febrifuge, to whom any Thing of that sort hath happened.

It must now be left to the judicious Consideration of my Countrymen, whether they will accept of this Discovery, and be delivered from these destructive Diseases; or trust their Lives and those of their Friends, to Modes and Medicines, which have been found ineffectual.

F I N I S.





I Think it necessary to add a Supplementary Note ; because I find, that when I wrote the preceeding Treatise, I had formed a wrong Conclusion, by considering Facts well attested as a proper Basis for the Support of my Propositions. I am told, that none of the Cures I have related, though ever so striking and interesting, can be admitted as Evidence in physical Enquiries.

I have produced the Case of a Gentlewoman, taken so extremely ill of a Fever, as in a very few Hours to be deprived of Reason, though attended by two or three Physicians, who declared her to be in great Danger ; and yet by taking a small Quantity of the Febrifuge, without bleeding, blistering, or any other painful Operation, was restored to her Reason in three or four Hours, and to Health in a few Days.
Case xxiv.

I have related the Case of a Lady, who was reduced to a very languishing State, by the frequent Returns of an inflammatory Fever, which the Gentlemen of the Faculty could not prevent,
confining

confining her to her Bed and Room, a Month or six Weeks 2 or 3 Times a Year, yet was cured of one of those Fevers by the Febrifuge, in a few Days, and by continuing to take it for a short Time, had her lost Health, Spirits and Strength restored, and is now, with many others, a living Monument of the admirable Efficacy of the Medicine. (P. 52, 53 & 54.)

It will appear, I think, the Effect of the most unreasonable Prejudice to assert, that no Inference can be drawn in favor of the Medicine, from these and the like uncontrovertible Facts. To me, and I believe to all the unprejudiced Part of Mankind, they carry the Force of Demonstration.—Because Physicians are unacquainted with Medicines, which can be depended on in the Cure of Fevers, should they persuade themselves and the Public, that no such can be discovered? —This would in fact, be supposing our Knowledge in physical Cases to be advanced to the utmost Perfection, and that no new Discoveries remained for the Investigation of future Ages; a Notion too confined and unphilosophical, to require any Refutation!

I have

I have affirmed, and I wish to convince the World by a Collection of Cases fairly stated, that a new Discovery has been made, and confirmed by the Experience of twenty Years.

If any one should Question the Authenticity of these Facts, and the Efficacy of the Medicine I wish to recommend, I can only say, that I am very willing to submit it to a *fair and impartial Examination*; and shall be happy to attend any one for that *Purpose*, who can lay aside Prejudice and Prepossession; desiring no other Reward, but the Satisfaction resulting from a Consciousness of having contributed my Assistance to relieve my Fellow-creatures in Distress.

I am sensible, that in this Publication I have opposed the Opinion of a very learned and respectable Body, by thus insinuating, that the Medicine here described is superior to common Prescriptions; but I repose myself on their Candour. Being animated and encouraged by the noblest of all human Motives, a sincere Regard for the Welfare of Mankind.

To those who explode the Idea of a *new Discovery*, I answer in the Words of *SENECA*:—
Veniet Tempus, quo ista, quæ nunc latent, in lucens
dies extrahat, & longioris Ævi diligentia.

Nat. Quest. Lib. vii. C. 25.



Med. Hist

W12

260

W15920

1777

Observations on Feuers

White, R

London, 1777

National Library of Medicine

Bethesda, Maryland

CONDITION PRIOR TO TREATMENT

There was no cover. There were remnants of dark and embrittled leather on the spine. The sewing was intact. The sewing appeared to be through the fold style. The laid paper text was flexible, and moderately soiled, heavy soil on the title page. There was an accumulation of dark discoloration on the title page from adhesive, leather deterioration, and liquid stain.

TREATMENT

The text was collated in pencil. The text block was disbound with methylcellulose poultices. The text was washed in a bath of deionized water and deacidified in an aqueous solution of magnesium bicarbonate. Adhesive residue was removed from the title page and the last page. The leaves were repaired with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste. The repaired leaves were humidified and flattened. The spine was lined with both Japanese and Western paper using wheat starch paste adhesive, and a layer of unbleached Irish linen with PVA adhesive. The book was recovered in a non-adhesive paper cover that is reinforced with acid-free buffered board. The surface pH of the text after treatment was 8.5.

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts

Accession #92.163

June, 1992

